<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 14, 2006. Claims 1, 3, 4, 12 to 16, 18, 19, 27 to 30, 38 to 41, 43, 46 and 47 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 12, 16, 27, 38, 43, 46 and 47 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was objected to for an informality that has been attended to by amendment. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 16, 18, 19, 46 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,307,643 (Okada) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,714,977 (Fowler), Claims 12, 14, 27, 29, 38, 40 and 43 were rejected under § 103(a) over Okada in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0267892 (Kikinis), and Claims 13, 15, 19, 28, 30 and 39were rejected under § 103(a) over Okada in view of Kikinis and Fowler. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns providing notification of a status of a device via e-mail. According to one aspect of the invention, destination setting screen data is transmitted to an external apparatus and causes a web browser of the external apparatus to display a setting screen for setting destination information indicating a first destination of electronic mail corresponding to a first one of a plurality of statuses of a device, and a setting screen for setting destination information indicating a second destination of electronic mail corresponding to a second one of the plurality of statuses of the device which is different from the first one of the plurality of statuses of said device. The first destination and the second destination are also different from each other. The set destination information for the first and second destinations is received and stored. Then,

when status information of the device is obtained, an electronic mail message is generated and transmitted to one of the first and second destinations, depending which one of the plurality of statuses is obtained.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a data transfer processing apparatus which controls data transfer in a device, comprising a data transmission unit that transmits, to an external apparatus via a network, destination setting screen data that causes a web browser of the external apparatus to display a setting screen for setting destination information indicating a first destination of electronic mail corresponding to a first one of a plurality of statuses of the device, and a setting screen for setting destination information indicating a second destination of electronic mail corresponding to a second one of the plurality of statuses of the device which is different from the first one of the plurality of statuses of the device, the first destination and the second destination being different from each other, a destination information reception unit that receives the destination information set with the setting screen from the external apparatus via the network, a destination information storage unit that stores the destination information received by the destination information reception unit, a status obtaining unit that obtains status information about one of the plurality of statuses of the device, a message obtaining unit that obtains a message according to the status information obtained by the status obtaining unit, a transmission data generation unit that generates transmission data according to the message obtained by the message obtaining unit and according to the destination information indicating one of the first destination and the second destination corresponding to the status information obtained by the status obtaining unit, and an electronic mail transmission unit that transmits as

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electronic mail the transmission data generated by the transmission data generation unit to one of the first destination and the second destination corresponding to the status information obtained by the status obtaining unit.

Claims 16, 46 and 47 are device, method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 16, 46 and 47, and particularly, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of an apparatus transmitting, to an external apparatus via a network, destination setting screen data that causes a web browser of the external apparatus to display a setting screen for setting destination information indicating a first destination of electronic mail corresponding to a first one of a plurality of statuses of a device, and a setting screen for setting destination information indicating a second destination of electronic mail corresponding to a second one of the plurality of statuses of the device which is different from the first one of the plurality of statuses of the device, the first destination and the second destination being different from each other, and then generating transmission data according to an obtained message regarding the status of the device and according to the destination information indicating one of the first destination and the second destination corresponding to obtained status information, and transmitting as electronic mail the generated transmission data to one of the first destination and the second destination corresponding to the obtained status information.

Okada is merely seen to disclose that a multiple notification results can be sent to the same e-mail address. In Okada, a fax communication is sent to a facsimile machine and a result of the fax communication is requested to be sent to the transmitting

devcie. Depending on the result of the communication, a result notification message may be sent to a preset e-mail address instead. For instance, if the result is a PAPER JAM, COMMUNICATION ERROR, or NO PAPER in the receiving device, the receiving device may sent an e-mail notification to address 123.456.789.00 (see Fig. 23). If the result is NETWORK ABNORMAL or QUEUED FOR PRINTING, the result notification may be sent to address 101.202.303.44. Thus, while different notification messages may be sent to different addresses, as rightly admitted in the Office Action, Okada fails to teach the claimed features of transmitting the screen setting information for setting the first and second destinations, where a web browser is caused to display the setting screen information, and the set first and second destinations are received and then stored.

Fowler is not seen to remedy the deficiencies of Okada. In this regard, Fowler is seen to disclose a system for monitoring a space (e.g., a room) utilizing sensors, where an alarm can be sent over the internet. An HTML (web) interface can be used to set-up the monitoring system, including setting up a primary and a secondary e-mail address that a report can be sent to. However, both the primary and secondary e-mail addresses are for the same alarm. (see Fig. 17) Utilizing the technique taught by Fowler to set the e-mail destinations of Okada would defeat the purpose of Okada and result in inefficiencies in Okada. In this regard, Okada sends different result notification types to the same e-mail address. In contrast, Fowler sends the same result notification to two different e-mail addresses. Thus, modifying Okada with Fowler would result in, for example, sending a PAPER JAM notification to both address 123.456.789.00 and 101.202.303.44. Each e-mail address in Okada is specific to a particular manager so that a user can take corrective

action, if necessary. Thus, the proposed combination of Okada and Fowler would not have resulted in the present invention.

Kikinis is also not seen to add anything that, when combined with Okada and/or Fowler would have overcome their deficiencies. In this regard, Kikinis is seen to disclose that a received e-mail is searched for certain words or phrases that match words or phrases stored in a look-up table. However, Kikinis is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Okada and/or Fowler, would have resulted in at least the feature of an apparatus transmitting, to an external apparatus via a network, destination setting screen data that causes a web browser of the external apparatus to display a setting screen for setting destination information indicating a first destination of electronic mail corresponding to a first one of a plurality of statuses of a device, and a setting screen for setting destination information indicating a second destination of electronic mail corresponding to a second one of the plurality of statuses of the device which is different from the first one of the plurality of statuses of the device, the first destination and the second destination being different from each other, and then generating transmission data according to an obtained message regarding the status of the device and according to the destination information indicating one of the first destination and the second destination corresponding to obtained status information, and transmitting as electronic mail the generated transmission data to one of the first destination and the second destination corresponding to the obtained status information.

In view of the foregoing, independent Claims 1, 16, 46 and 47, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

In another, related aspect of the invention, e-mail reply destinations are set. According to this aspect, reply destination information is registered, where the reply destination information indicates a first reply destination of electronic mail corresponding to a first one of a plurality of statuses of a device and a second reply destination of electronic mail corresponding to a second one of the plurality of statuses of the device which is different from the first one of the plurality of statuses of the device. The first reply destination and the second reply destination are different from each other and are different from a source of electronic mail. Then, after a status of the device is obtained and a message is obtained based on the obtained status, transmission data is generated. The transmission data is generated according to the obtained message, destination information indicating a destination of e-mail, and according to the first and second reply destinations corresponding to the obtained status. Thus, when the e-mail is sent to the destination, replies are sent by the receiving device to one of the first and second reply destinations, which are different from the source of the e-mail and which are based on the obtained status.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 12 is directed to a data transfer processing apparatus which controls data transfer in a device, comprising a registration unit that registers reply destination information indicating a first reply destination of electronic mail corresponding to a first one of a plurality of statuses of the device and a second reply destination of electronic mail corresponding to a second one of the plurality of statuses of the device which is different from the first one of the plurality of statuses of the device, the first reply destination and the second reply destination being different from each other and being different from a source of electronic mail, a status

obtaining unit that obtains status information about one of the plurality of statuses of the device, a message obtaining unit that obtains a message according to the status information obtained by the status obtaining unit, a transmission data generation unit that generates transmission data according to the message obtained by the message obtaining unit, according to destination information indicating a destination of electronic mail, and according to the reply destination information indicating one of the first reply destination and the second reply destination corresponding to the status information obtained by the status obtaining unit, wherein the generated transmission data includes the destination information and the reply destination information indicating one of the first reply destination and the second reply destination corresponding to the status information obtained by the status obtaining unit, and an electronic mail transmission unit that transmits as electronic mail the transmission data generated by the transmission data generation unit.

Claims 27, 38 and 43 are device, method, and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 12.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 12, 27, 38 and 43, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of registering, in a device, reply destination information indicating a first reply destination of electronic mail corresponding to a first one of a plurality of statuses of the device and a second reply destination of electronic mail corresponding to a second one of the plurality of statuses of the device which is different from the first one of the plurality of statuses of the device, the first reply destination and the second reply destination being different from each other and being different from a source of electronic mail.

Okada fails to teach anything with regard to the claimed reply destinations feature of the invention and the Office Action admits as much.

Kikinis is not seen to overcome the foregoing deficiencies of Okada. In Kikinis, an agent inserts different addresses "from" and "reply to" into reply e-mail, and transfers this reply e-mail (paragraph [0018]). More specifically, in Kikinis, an e-mail client of the agent looks up a company address or addresses in a database (step 49), and inserts the company address or addresses into an appropriate field or fields in the reply e-mail (step 51). For example, it is assumed that a company D which acts for companies A, B and C receives a customer's e-mail. In such a case, an agent representing company D replaces company D's address with company A's address in the "mail-to" field of the customer's e-mail, and sends it to the company A as an original message from the customer. Then, company A replaces company A's address with company D's address in the "from" field of the reply e-mail, and sends the reply e-mail to the customer (paragraph [0039]). As can be understood from such operations, what kind of return destination address is to be inserted in the e-mail depends on the relation among the companies, that is, the reply destination address does not correspond to any status of a device. Thus, Kikinis fails to teach the claimed registration unit/step that registers the claimed first and second reply destinations corresponding to the status of the device.

Fowler fails to make up for the foregoing deficiencies of Okada and Kikinis and also fails to teach the claimed registration unit/step.

Accordingly, Claims 12, 27, 28 and 42, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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